

6. **(Twice Amended)** Method according to claim 1 further characterized in that:
step b) comprises amplifying a fragment of the protease gene with at least one 3'-primer specifically hybridizing to a target sequence located at nucleotide position 253 (codon 85) to position 300, in combination with at least one suitable 5'-primer.

12. **(Twice Amended)** A diagnostic kit enabling a method for determining the susceptibility to antiviral drugs of HIV viruses in a biological sample, with said kit comprising:
- a) when appropriate, a means for releasing, isolating or concentrating the polynucleic acids present in said sample;
 - b) when appropriate, at least one of the primers comprising SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 503, SEQ ID NO: 504, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 506, SEQ ID NO: 507, SEQ ID NO: 508 or SEQ ID NO: 509; or
a 5'-primer specifically hybridizing to a target sequence located at nucleotide position 210 to 260 of the protease gene; or
a 3'-primer specifically hybridizing to a target sequence located at nucleotide position 253 (codon 85) to 300 of the protease gene;
 - c) at least two probes that specifically and simultaneously hybridize to a target sequence of HIV protease gene, codon 82/84, fixed to a solid support, wherein said probes are capable of simultaneously hybridizing to their respective targets under appropriate hybridization and wash conditions;
 - d) a hybridization buffer, or components necessary for producing said buffer;
 - e) a wash solution, or components necessary for producing said solution;
 - f) when appropriate, a means for detecting the hybrids resulting from the preceding hybridization;
 - g) when appropriate, a means for attaching said probe to a solid support.
13. **(Amended)** The method according to claim 1, wherein at least two probes are provided for hybridizing to each of the target sequences of codon 30; codon 46/48, codon 50; codon 54; codon 82/84 and codon 90.

17. (Amended) The kit according to claim 12, wherein at least two probes are provided for hybridizing to each of the target sequences of codon 30; codon 46/48, codon 50; codon 54; codon 82/84 and codon 90.

20. (Amended) A solid support for use in the method of claim 1, said support having two or more probes immobilized thereon, wherein said probes are capable of specifically and simultaneously hybridizing to a target sequence of the HIV protease gene, codon 82/84 or the complement thereof.

21. (Amended) The solid support of claim 25 wherein the probes are selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs. 7-477.

23. (Amended) The solid support of claim 20 wherein the probes are selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID. NOs. 228-357.

24. (Amended) The solid support of claim 20 comprising SEQ ID NO. 267 and SEQ ID NO. 354.

25. (Amended) The solid support of claim 20 comprising at least two probes for each target sequence of codon 30, codon 46/48, codon 50, codon 54, codon 82/84, and codon 90.

26. (Amended) A composition comprising at least two probes fixed to a solid support for use in the method of claim 1, wherein said probes are capable of specifically and simultaneously hybridizing to a target sequence of the HIV protease gene, codon 82/84 or the complement thereof.

Please add new claims 28-33:

28. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising hybridizing at least two probes to an additional target sequence selected from the group consisting of codon 30; codon 46/48; codon 50; codon 54; and codon 90.

29. (New) The method according to claim 28, wherein said probes are selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 7 to SEQ ID NO: 477, SEQ ID NO: 510 to SEQ ID NO: 519 and the complements thereof.
30. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said probes are SEQ ID NO: 267 and SEQ ID NO: 354.
31. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the target sequences for codon 82/84 are shown in Figure 1.
32. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the target sequences for each codon are shown in Figure 1.
33. (New) The method according to claim 28, wherein the target sequences for each codon are shown in Figure 1.

REMARKS

I. Status of the claims

Claims 9 and 22 are canceled.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 12, 13, 17 and 20-26 are amended and claims 28-33 are newly added.

Claims 1, 3-8, 12-21 and 23-33 are currently pending.

II. Rationale and support for the amendment of the claims

Claim 9 is canceled in response to the currently pending Restriction Requirement, as not being directed to the elected invention. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 12, 13, 17 and 20-26 have been amended in view of the restriction requirement to limit the inventive method to a single codon region, namely the codon region spanning 82 and 84. New claims 28 and 31-33 find support in